HLS 19RS-3515 ORIGINAL

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 118

BY REPRESENTATIVES MIKE JOHNSON, ANDERS, BILLIOT, TERRY BROWN, COX, LANCE HARRIS, HILL, HOWARD, LARVADAIN, AND MCFARLAND AND SENATORS LONG AND LUNEAU

HEALTH/BEHAVIORAL: Urges the office of behavioral health to ensure access to substance use disorder treatment in central La. pursuant to the impending closure of four residential treatment facilities in the Pineville area

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 2 To urge the office of behavioral health of the Louisiana Department of Health to take all 3 measures necessary to ensure adequate access to substance use disorder treatment in 4 central Louisiana pursuant to the impending closure of four residential treatment 5 facilities in the Pineville area, and to report to the legislative committees on health 6 and welfare concerning the actions it is taking to provide for this access. 7 WHEREAS, providing access to substance use disorder treatment is a vital public 8 health priority of this state; and 9 WHEREAS, as evidenced by its creation of the Commission on Preventing Opioid 10 Abuse through House Concurrent Resolution No. 113 of the 2016 Regular Session and the 11 Advisory Council on Heroin and Opioid Prevention and Education, commonly known as the 12 "HOPE Council", through Act No. 88 of the 2017 Regular Session, as well as its 13 consideration of extensive legislation in this 2019 Regular Session on enhancing access to 14 substance use disorder treatment, the Legislature of Louisiana earnestly strives to address 15 the dire impacts of drug and alcohol abuse on families and communities of our state; and 16 WHEREAS, many central Louisiana residents, including legislators and other elected 17 officials, first learned of the impending closure of four residential substance use disorder 18 treatment centers in Pineville through local television media in late May of 2019; and

1	WHEREAS, these local news stories reported that the four privately owned treatment
2	centers are scheduled to close on June 30, 2019; and
3	WHEREAS, officials with the Louisiana Department of Health have stated that the
4	department has known of these impending closures for a period of months; and
5	WHEREAS, these officials also indicate that the department's office of behavioral
6	health is working to ensure that no gap in services will occur for Medicaid enrollees
7	currently receiving treatment at the four centers which are due to close, and that efforts are
8	underway to build treatment capacity in the Pineville area back to current levels within three
9	to six months of the closures; and
10	WHEREAS, it is extremely important for the state to succeed in the task of
11	rebuilding residential treatment center capacity in central Louisiana, and for the Louisiana
12	Department of Health to keep elected officials and the general public in the affected region
13	apprised of where people may access the substance abuse treatment they need as existing
14	facilities close and new facilities and services become available.
15	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
16	urge the office of behavioral health of the Louisiana Department of Health to take all
17	measures necessary to ensure adequate access to substance use disorder treatment in central
18	Louisiana pursuant to the scheduled closure on June 30, 2019, of four residential treatment
19	facilities in the Pineville area.
20	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does also urge the
21	Louisiana Department of Health to take all of the following actions in order to ensure
22	continuity of care for current clients of the Pineville-area treatment facilities that are
23	scheduled to close and access to services for persons seeking treatment:
24	(1) Assist the treatment facilities that are scheduled to close in remaining open until
25	new treatment facilities in the Pineville area are licensed and opened.
26	(2) Provide technical assistance to entities that apply for licensure of residential
27	substance use disorder treatment facilities in the Pineville area and expedite those entities'
28	license applications.

secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

1 (3) Explore means by which existing properties that are underutilized or vacant but 2 suitable for conversion for use as residential treatment facilities could be used as temporary 3 treatment facilities until new permanent facilities are licensed and opened. 4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of behavioral health shall submit two 5 reports to the House Committee on Health and Welfare and the Senate Committee on Health 6 and Welfare concerning the efforts called for in this Resolution to provide continuity in and 7 rebuild substance use disorder treatment capacity in the Pineville area. 8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of behavioral health shall submit the 9 first report required by this Resolution on or before September 30, 2019, and shall submit 10 the second report required by this Resolution on or before December 31, 2019. 11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the

DIGEST

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2019 Regular Session

Mike Johnson

Urges the office of behavioral health of the La. Department of Health to take all measures necessary to ensure adequate access to substance use disorder treatment in central La. pursuant to the impending closure of four residential treatment facilities in the Pineville area, and to report to the legislative committees on health and welfare concerning actions to provide for this access.